

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 014016

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE INVESTIGATION

-- OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES' MURDER

MOSCOW FOR HARTMAN

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT NOON
BRIEFING JANUARY 20 IN RESPONSE TO NEWS REPORTS APPEARING
TODAY'S PRESS CONCERNING THE DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES:

QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY AND
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VIGOROUSLY PURSUED EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE

FOR THE MURDER OF AMBASSADOR RODGER DAVIES ARE APPREHENDED AND BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THESE EFFORTS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION ON AUGUST 19, 1974, AND HAVE CONTINUED TO THIS DAY AND INCLUDE A PERSONAL INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY. AT THIS TIME THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO KILLED AMBASSADOR DAVIES. TELEVISION NEWS FILMS AND OTHER EVIDENCE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO CYPRIOT SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO ASSIST THEM IN THEIR INVESTIGATION AND TO HELP IDENTIFY SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MOB WHO WERE FIRING AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. HOWEVER, FROM THIS

EVIDENCE, AVAILABLE TO US, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHO FIRED THE SHOT THAT KILLED AMBASSADOR DAVIES.

WE HAVE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, BOTH IN NICOSIA AND WASHINGTON, EXPRESSED TO OFFICIALS OF THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE INVESTIGATION OF RODGER DAVIES' KILLING SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS WILL BE DONE. THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS IS AWARE THAT WE ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH ITS ACTIONS TO DATE. ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LAX IN ITS EFFORTS TO BRING THE KILLERS TO JUSTICE IS AN UNWARRENTED AND REPREHENSIBLE DISTORTION OF THE FACTS AND A DISSERVICE TO THE MEMORY OF A DISTINGUISHED AND RESPECTED AMERICAN DIPLOMAT. UNQUOTE

2. THE SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO ELABORATE FURTHER IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS. SISCO

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